Speed Post Service In Gujarat

6296. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the district headquarters in Gujarat where speed post service is still not available and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the time by which all the district headquarters are likely to be covered under this network?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) District Headquarters in Gujarat where Speed Post service is still not available:-

(1) Himatnagar, (2) Mehsana, (3) Palanpur, (4) Surendranagar, (5) Amreli, (6) Jamnagar, (7) Junagadh (8) Kheda, (9) Bharuch, (10) Valsad, (11) Ahwa (Dang), (12) Godhra, (13) Bhav nagar, (14) Bhuj.

Provision of Speed Post facility is an on-going process and is provided on the basis of commercial viability and operational feasibility of the service at a particular place. Provision of Speed Post facility at the above mentioned places is at present not justified.

(b) In view of reply at (a) above, does not arise.

Shortage of Coaches and Wagons

6297. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL:

DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of passenger coaches and wagons in the country and old Coaches are in the use;

(b) if so, the details thereof; zone-wise

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether transportation of foodgrains to Uttar Pradesh has affected badly due shortage of wagons;

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to solve this problem;

(f) whether the Government propose to set up any third coach manufacturing factory; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) For running scheduled train services, there is no shortage of coaches. However taking into account the component of overaged coaches in the total fleet, there is shortage of GSs and SLRs. Besides, for running additional trains and special trains there is shortage. There is no shortage of wagons. However, some phase difference between placement of demands and supply is inescapable.

(c) More GSs and SLRs are proposed to be procured in 1997-98.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) The present manufacturing capacity in the country is considered adequate to meet current requirements.

[Translation]

Recruitment of Trainees Pilots

6298. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for adopting different criteria for the recruitment of trainees pilots in Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) whether the qualification of commercial Pilot licence is essential for trainees pilots in Indian Airlines while in Air India other than commercial Pilot licence the experience of Multi Engine is required whereas the Government provide scholarship only upto commercial pilot licence and not for multi engine: and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) The criteria for pilot induction vary from airline to airline, depending upon the type of aircraft in the fleet and operational route structure.

While in Indian Airlines Commercial Pilot's Licence (CPL) is essential for trainee pilots, in Air India the criterion for trainee pilots has been kept as CPL with Multi Engine Endorsement, in view of the big jet aircraft in the fleet and the high density international routes on which Air India operates.

Target of Telephone Line In Gujarat

6299. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for laying of telephone lines in Gujarat during the current year;

(b) the number of lines laid till date;

(c) the number of circles runing behind the target;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the annual target?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The target for new telephone connections in Gujarat during 1997-98 is 208000 lines.

(b) As on 30.4.97, 5880 new connections were provided.